

WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1950

R. W. Kind, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Area</u> (in acres)	3432.
<u>Number of inhabited houses</u> (end of 1950) according to rate books	4410.
(There are in addition 142 houses combined with shops).	
<u>Rateable Value</u> 1st April, 1950	£73,896.
<u>Sum represented by a penny rate</u>	£278.

POPULATION:

1950 Registrar General's estimate 15,630.

TABLE showing the Registrar General's estimate of the changes
in population during the past ten years. -

1941	13,580	1946	14,230
1942	13,310	1947	14,530
1943	13,110	1948	14,780
1944	13,290	1949	14,980
1945	13,340	1950	15,630

BIRTHS:

				<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>
<u>Live Births:</u>	Legitimate	Male		123	140
		Female		120	136
		Total		243	276
	Illegitimate	Male		5	4
		Female		5	3
		Total		10	7
Total Live Births		Male		128	144
		Female		125	139
		Total		253	283
<u>Stillbirths:</u>	Legitimate	Male		1	1
		Female		1	5
		Total		2	6
	Illegitimate	Male		NIL	1
		Female		NIL	NIL
		Total		NIL	1
Total Still Births		Male		1	2
		Female		1	5
		Total		2	7

<u>Birthrate per 1,000</u> estimated population:	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>
Wigston	16.1	19.00
England & Wales	15.8	16.7

<u>Illegitimate birthrate per 1,000 live births:</u>		
Wigston	39.5	24.7

<u>Stillbirths rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ..</u>	7.8	24.1
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<u>Stillbirths rate per 1,000 estimated population:</u>		
Wigston	0.12	0.48
England & Wales	0.37	0.39

TABLE showing the changes in the total live births and in the birth rates during the past ten years.

Year	Total Live Births Wigston	Birth Rates (per 1,000 population)		
		Wigston	Leicester-shire.	England and Wales.
1941	225	17.7	14.6	14.2
1942	261	19.6	17.3	15.8
1943	287	21.9	19.6	16.5
1944	315	23.7	21.1	17.6
1945	254	19.0	18.8	16.1
1946	319	22.4	20.6	19.1
1947	359	24.7	21.2	20.5
1948	331	22.39	18.84	17.9
1949	283	19.0	17.35	16.7
1950	253	16.1	16.17	15.8

<u>DEATHS:</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>
Total <u>Number of Deaths:</u> Male	74	68
Female	71	72
Total	145	140
<u>Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:</u>		
Wigston	9.2	9.4
England and Wales	11.6	11.7

TABLE SHOWING the changes in the total number of deaths and in the death rates during the past ten years.

Year	Total Deaths Wigston	Death Rates (per 1,000 population) Not corrected for age or for sex distribution of the population.		
		Wigston	Leicester-shire.	England and Wales.
1941	167	12.3	11.0	12.9
1942	136	10.2	10.4	11.6
1943	174	13.3	11.3	12.1
1944	160	12.0	11.2	11.6
1945	146	10.9	11.1	11.4
1946	157	11.1	10.7	11.5
1947	164	11.3	11.3	12.0
1948	147	9.9	9.77	10.8
1949	140	9.4	10.68	11.7
1950	145	9.2	10.28	11.6

<u>Deaths from puerperal causes:</u>		<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>
<u>No. of deaths:</u>	Puerperal sepsis	NIL	NIL
	Other puerperal causes	NIL	1
<u>Rate per 1,000 live and still births:</u>			
	Wigston	NIL	3.4
	England & Wales	0.96	0.98

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

<u>No. of deaths:</u>	Legitimate	Male	6	4
		Female	1	2
		Total	7	6
	Illegitimate	Male	NIL	NIL
		Female	NIL	1
		Total	NIL	1
Total Infant deaths			7	7
<u>Infant mortality per 1,000 live births:</u>				
	Wigston		27.6	24.7
	England & Wales		29.8	32

TABLE showing deaths of infants under one year and infant mortality rates during the past ten years.

Year	Total Infant deaths	Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 live births.		
		Wigston	Leicester-shire,	England and Wales
1941	18	70	50	59
1942	20	77	47	49
1943	18	63	42	49
1944	12	38	37	46
1945	10	39	36	46
1946	14	44	36	43
1947	22	64	43	41
1948	17	51.3	32.2	34.
1949	7	24.7	27.1	32
1950	7	27.6	27.0	29.8

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

<u>No. of Deaths.</u>	Legitimate	Male	2
		Female	1
		Total	3
	Illegitimate		NIL



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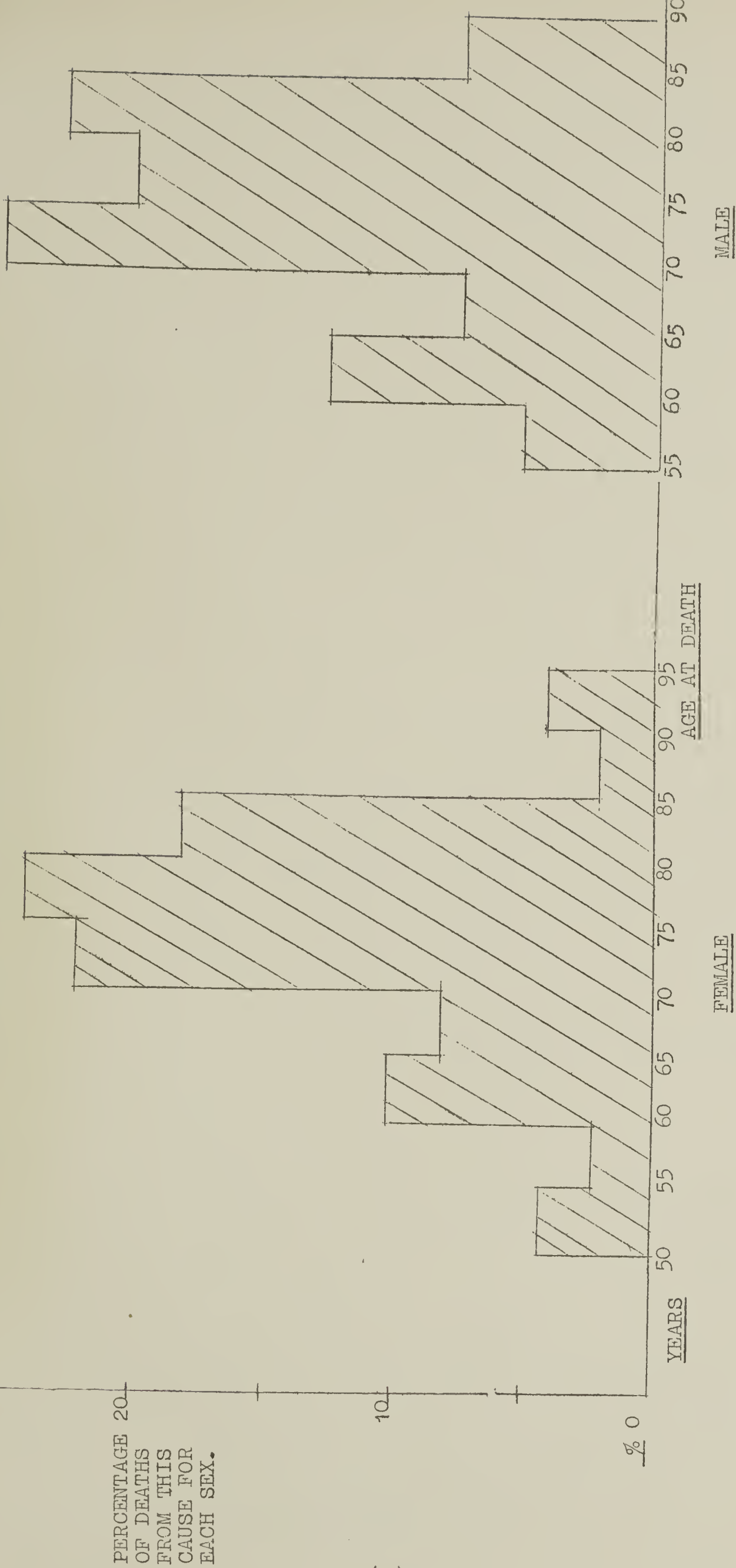
<https://archive.org/details/b30277826>

Causes of Death:

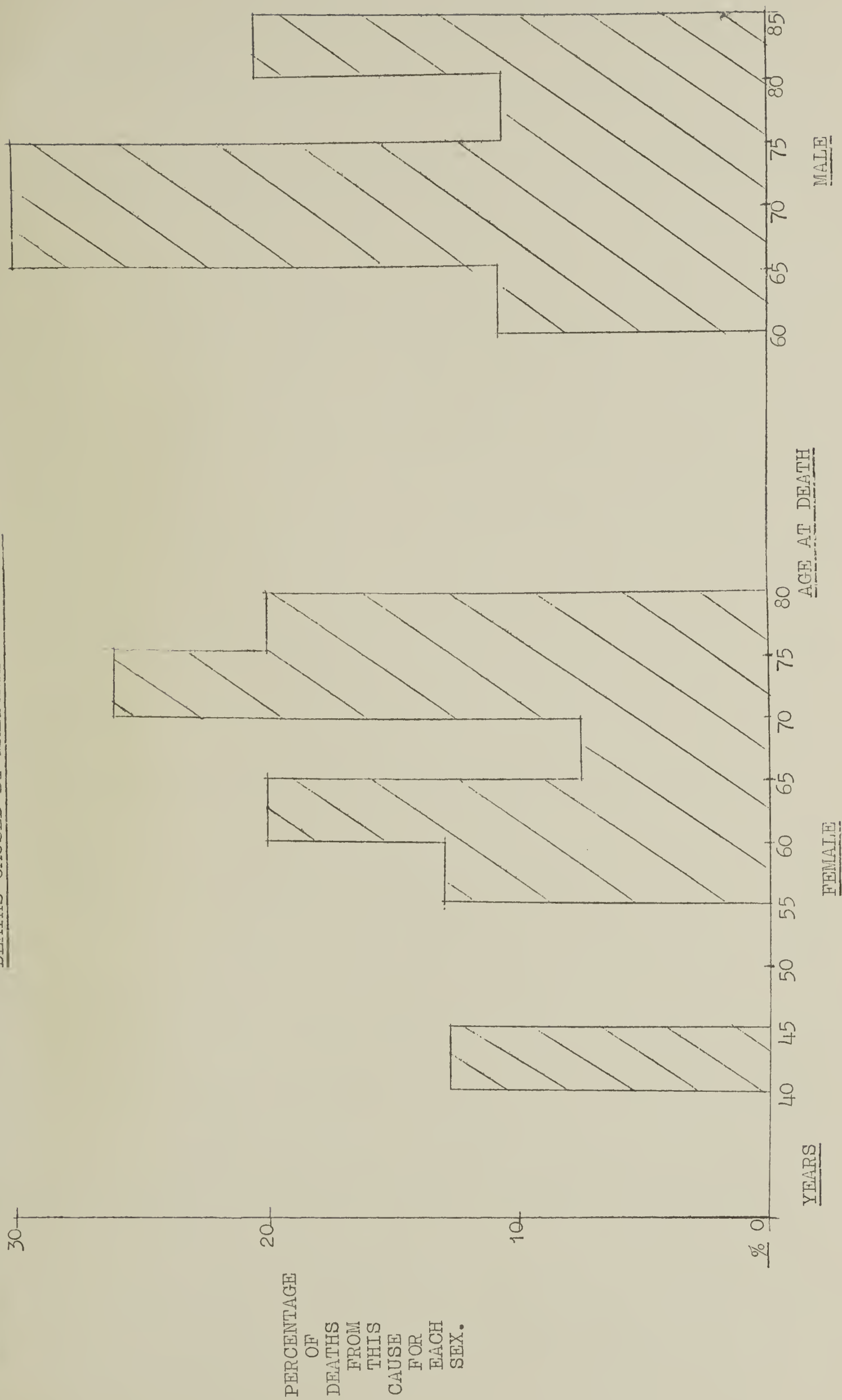
Registrar General's Classification:

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other.	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	1	-	1
7. Acute poliomyelitis.	1	-	1
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	4	1	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	2	2
14. Malignant neoplasms, lymphatic and other.	6	9	15
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system.	5	7	12
18. Coronary disease, angina.	13	4	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	-	2	2
20. Other heart disease.	18	30	48
21. Other circulatory disease.	4	2	6
22. Influenza.	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia.	1	-	1
24. Bronchitis.	3	1	4
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system.	-	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	2	-	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	3	3
29. Hyperplasia of the prostate.	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	5	5	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1
34. All other accidents.	1	2	3
35. Suicide.	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
Total deaths, all causes	74	71	145

DEATHS CAUSED BY DISEASES OF THE HEART AND CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.



DEATHS CAUSED BY MALIGNANT NEOPLASM.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. Fred Boustead Ashbridge, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

I am indebted to Mr. Ashbridge for the information, relating to the sanitary circumstances of the area, upon which this section of the Report depends. (See also Appendix "B").

Water Supply:

The Leicester Corporation mains supply the water to this District; pressure during peak consumption hours in some parts of the area is not satisfactory but this matter is receiving the attention of the Water Authority. No acute shortage has been experienced.

a)	Number of dwelling houses having a piped supply laid into the house	4538
	Population concerned	15,244
b)	Number of dwelling houses supplied from stand pipes	49
	Population concerned	160
c)	Number of wells in use	9
	Number of houses supplied	14
	Population concerned	40

Sewage:

The completion of 483 yards of sewer along Welford Road has made possible the abolition of 13 cesspools.

Number of cesspools in use	13
Number of premises served by these	17
Number of cesspools constructed during the year	1

Closet Accommodation:

Approximate number in the district of -

a)	Privies	NIL
b)	Pail Closets	23
c)	Water Closets	5643

Pails are cleansed weekly by the Authority's own labour and disposal is made into the public sewer. Cesspools are similarly cleansed fortnightly.

Public Cleansing:

The collection of refuse has been increased to approximately nine day intervals and trade wastes are collected from some forty-eight premises producing these.

The collection of waste paper has been resumed owing to the market for this commodity having returned.

I still feel it necessary to condemn the present system of collection of kitchen waste. The use of street bins which are upset by dogs and children at play and which at their best are offensive to the senses and during warm weather make a serious contribution to the fly menace, is highly unsatisfactory.

In certain parts of the District it is felt that this Authority is merely subsidizing the collection of swill for individual pig and poultry keepers who rifle the bins immediately prior to collection. Even if this were not the case it is unlikely that the service would be other than the financial liability which it constitutes at present.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

Total number of complaints received during the year	235
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	432

Total number of inspections made:

	<u>First Inspections.</u>	<u>Revisits.</u>
Animal keeping	27	50
Bakehouses	4	9
Dairies and Cowsheds	22	92
Drainage works	38	61
Dwelling-houses (all purposes) ...	255	510
Food premises	60	62
Offensive trades	NIL	NIL
Rodent control	288	460
Refuse collection and disposal ...	46	122
Schools	NIL	NIL
Shops	32	72
Slaughter-house and meat inspection	9	28
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	5	15
Verminous premises	12	30
Water supplies	29	52
Workshops	10	22
Other inspections	122	242
Smoke observations	26	26
 Total inspection ...	 985	 1853

Notices served during the year:

<u>Preliminary:</u>	<u>Housing.</u>	<u>Public Health.</u>
Outstanding on January 1st. 1950 ..	9	20
Issued during the year	20	412
Complied with during the year	25	403
Statutory action necessary	NIL	NIL
Outstanding on December 31st, 1950.	4	29

Shops:

1. Defects found in sanitary con- veniences during the year	5
Defects remedied during the year	4
2. Defects found in washing facil- ities during the year	12
Defects remedied during the year	3

Regulated Buildings:

Number of dwelling-vans in the area	1
Number of inspections made	20
Action taken	NIL
General conditions	GOOD

These inspections were made of mobile vans owned by travelling showmen.

There is no lodging house in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:

Number of council houses found infested	NIL
Number of other houses found infested	3
Number of houses disinfested	3
Number of disinfestations carried out by local authority .	NIL
Number of disinfestations carried out by the property agent ...	3

Schools:

On two occasions the Cleansing staff were called upon to empty the sewage pumping chamber at the South Wigston Modern Schools.

H O U S I N G.

1. New Houses.

Number of applications for council houses at the end of the year	984
Programme of new council houses -	
Erected by end of year	95
Under construction at end of year	77
Number of houses erected during the year by private enterprise	19
Number of houses in course of construction at the end of the year by private enterprise	NIL
Total number of post-war houses completed by -	
a) Local Authority	290
b) Private Enterprise	105

2. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	255
Number of inspections made for the purpose	765
b) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human inhabitation	NIL
c) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those in previous sub-headings) found to be not in all respects fit for human inhabitation	28

3. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:
Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in
consequence of informal action by the
local authority or its officers 28

4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:
a) Under Sections 9, 10, 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
i) Notices served in respect of dwelling houses
requiring repairs 12
ii) Dwelling houses rendered fit by owners 12
b) Under Public Health Acts:
i) Notices served in respect of dwelling houses
requiring defects to be remedied 188
ii) Dwelling houses in which defects were
remedied by the owners 188

5. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:
The extent of overcrowding in this District is
unknown and will remain so until such time as a survey
of housing conditions is made.

THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk: Dairies & Distributors (Sect. 8 Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949)

i) Dairies.
Number on Register 2
Number of inspections made 12
Number of contraventions found 2
Number of contraventions remedied 2
ii) Distributors.
Number on Register 30
Number of inspections made 74
Number of contraventions found 11
Number of contraventions remedied 11

Milk Sampling:

Designated Milk: Total number of samples taken for
(Pasteurised) bacteriological examination 78
Number found satisfactory 77
Ordinary Milk: Total number of samples taken for
bacteriological examination 48
Number found satisfactory 40

Biological Examination of Milk:

The quarterly examination of milk produced and sold in this District, made with a view to detecting the presence of living tubercle bacilli, was continued.

Forty-nine such samples were taken, all proving satisfactory.

Milk, (Special Designations) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.

<u>Licences issued.</u>	1. Dealers, Pasteurised	14
	Sterilised	13
	2. Supplementary, Pasteurised	2
	Sterilised	1

Milk, (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.

<u>Licences issued.</u>	1. Dealers, Tuberculin Tested	7
	Accredited	2
	2. Supplementary, Tuberculin Tested .	2
	Accredited	1

Meat and other Foods:

There are no regional slaughter-houses in the area. Two slaughter-houses are open for the slaughter of cottagers' pigs. 125 animals have been slaughtered in the district during the year and 125 carcasses were inspected.

In 6 cases a part or an organ of the carcase was condemned.

4.8% of these animals were found to be affected by tuberculosis.

Number of Inspections:

Knackers Yards	9
Meat Shops and Stores	28
Places where food other than meat is kept or prepared for sale	48

Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

Section 15 of this Act empowers Local Authorities to make bye-laws governing the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption. The Model Byelaws prepared by the Ministry of Food have already been adopted.

In order to ensure their implementation it will be necessary to secure the intelligent co-operation of the persons engaged in handling food. This can only be done by personal contact.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious diseases was similar to that in 1949.

A summary of notifications is presented in tabular form and in an additional table is shown the monthly distribution of measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever, with the 1949 figures presented for comparative purposes.

Immunisation facilities are provided free under the National Health Service Act. 156 children under the age of six years received their primary immunisation during the year whilst 95 children between the ages of four and seven years received further treatment to maintain their immunity.

Regarding the prevalent infections measles and whooping cough, I must deplore the very common attitude even amongst the more intelligent and technically informed of our parents that the acquisition of these diseases is inevitable. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that these diseases are spread by the sufferers mingling closely with the susceptible. For parents to allow their children in the early, most infective, catarrhal stages of these illnesses to come into contact with other children in streets, shops and places of recreation is criminal negligence which offends against both statute and society. It is interesting in this connection to quote from the Report of my predecessor in 1897:- "This (measles) is the most difficult of control of all the infectious diseases, as one cannot convince parents of the dangerous character of the disease and one is constantly met with the remark 'children must have the Measles at some time or other and the sooner the better'."

Tuberculosis:

A table shows the new cases and deaths from tuberculosis related to age and sex.

At the close of the year there were 89 cases of pulmonary and 12 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis on the Tuberculosis Register.

TABLE showing the notification of infectious diseases analysed by sex and age groupings:

Age Groups	Whooping Cough		Measles		Scarlet Fever		Dysentery		Erysipelas		Acute Poliomyelitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	1	2	4	3								
1 -	1	2	33	34	-	1	2	2				
3 -	2	12	36	49	1	2	4	-				
5 -	3	1	51	32	3	1	2	3	-	1		
10 -			1	-	1	1	2	-				
15 -			-	1			-	2				
25 -							1	2			2	-
45 -							-	2				
65 -												
Age Unknown					3	-	-	1				
TOTALS	7	17	125	119	8	5	11	12	-	1	2	-

TABLE showing the monthly distribution of certain infectious diseases:

1949	Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
	Measles	86	24	24	16	3	1	5	3	1	1	-	1	165
	Whooping Cough	5	11	11	17	11	13	16	6	1	1	1	-	93
	Scarlet Fever	2	5	2	2	-	-	1	2	1	4	1	-	20

1950	Measles	1	1	3	19	61	134	12	5	6	1	1	-	244
	Whooping Cough	-	1	1	-	3	6	-	4	6	-	3	-	24
	Scarlet Fever	3	2	1	-	2	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	13

TABLE showing new cases and deaths from tuberculosis:

Age Groups.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -								
1 -								
3 -								
5 -	1	-						
10 -	-	2						
15 -	2	1						
25 -	3	5	1	-				
45 -	3	-			1	-		
65 -	1	-						
TOTALS	10	8	1	-	1	-	-	-

The National Assistance Act, 1948:

Section 47 of this Act empowers a Local Authority on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health to apply to the Courts for an order for the removal to hospital or other appropriate institution of persons found to be suffering from grave chronic disease, being aged or infirm or physically incapacitated and living under insanitary conditions, and not receiving from other persons proper care and attention.

The handicap to the potential advantages of this section still lies in the grave shortage of hospital accommodation for the aged and chronic sick.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspect- ions. (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	8	41	3	Nil	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	94	62	14	Nil	2
(3) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority + (excluding out-workers premises)	3	9	16	5	Nil	3
Total		111	119	22	Nil	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspect- or. (5)	by H.M. Inspect- or. (6)		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	4	4	3	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	5	1	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temper- ature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate venti- lation (S.4)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	2	2	-	3	-	9
a) Insufficient	10	5	4	-	4	-	10
b) Unsuitable or defective	11	2	2	-	2	-	11
c) Not separate for sexes	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Other offences against the Act (not including of- fences relating to Outwork)							
Total	60	14	11	-	9	-	60

+ i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c. line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notice served.	Prosecutions.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing apparel) Making Etc.	13	194 ⁺	—	—	—	—	—	13
Cleaning and Washing.	14							14

+ of whom 60 reside outside of the Urban District.

APPENDIX "A"

I am indebted to Mr. G. F. Stacey, Surveyor to the Wigston Urban District Council for the following report :-

RAINFALL IN 1950

At WIGSTON U.D.C. Sewage Farm, Countesthorpe.

In the County of LEICESTERSHIRE.

Rain Gauge { Diameter of Funnel - 8 inches
 { Height of Top above Ground - - ft. 9 in.
 { Height of Ground above Sea Level - 256.85 ft.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with	
				.01 in. or more.	.04 in. or more.
	Inches	Inches	Date		
January	.63	.20	2	11	5
February	4.13	.78	2	17	15
March	1.12	.35	17	12	9
April	2.11	.48	17	18	14
May	2.25	.59	21	12	11
June	1.87	.55	13	8	7
July	2.53	.67	15	14	10
August	1.98	.27	15	18	11
September	2.77	.65	23	24	15
October	.60	.14	30	12	5
November	3.61	.72	20	26	17
December	1.55	.31	18	18	11
TOTAL	25.15			190	130

APPENDIX "B"

This year Mr. F. B. Ashbridge completes a quarter of a century of service to this Authority and twenty-one years as your Sanitary Inspector.

During this period he has witnessed the growth of the Wigston Urban District from an area of 1,954 acres containing 2,094 houses inhabited by 9,603 persons, to an area of 3,432 acres containing 4,410 houses inhabited by 15,630 persons. In the same period the rateable value of £35,879 in 1926 has risen to £73,896 in 1950.

With changing legislation the nature of his work has varied with the passage of time and the differences are possibly best shown in tabular form in respect of those aspects of work most subject to change.

TABLE 1.

Nature of Work	1930.	1950.
Inspection of bakehouses	43	NIL
Inspection of meat shops	125	72
Inspection of meat at the time of slaughter .	831	125
Inspection of slaughter-houses	44	NIL
Inspection of milk retailers premises and dairies	170	86
Milk samples taken	74	175
Inspections of factories and workshops . . .	49	119

The growth of the District is reflected by an increase in the volume of work which he has to carry out. Reference to the figures displayed in Table 2, which are yearly averages made over the periods 1930/34 and 1946/50, shows that whereas the number of complaints received, nuisances discovered and notices issued in consequence thereof have been more than doubled the number of visits made in connection with this work has increased by only a small fraction.

The reason for this is that your Sanitary Inspector has always had his time fully occupied and is unable to carry out more than a fixed maximum of work.

These figures support my recent report to you that this Department has difficulty in keeping abreast of its statutory obligations and cannot meet the demands of Public Health, let alone anticipate them, without an increase in technical staff.

TABLE 2.

Nature of Work	1930/34	1946/50	% increase.
Complaints received	87	193	119%
Nuisances discovered	208	549	163%
Notices issued	214	481	124%
Visits made	2,898	3,510	21%

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